EAST BEDLINGTON
Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held on 3 March 2026 at East Bedlington Community Centre

PRESENT:
Councillor Dawn Crosby
Councillor Keith Grimes (Chairman)
Councillor Paul Hedley
Councillor Mary Murphy
Councillor Caroline Rogers
Councillor Keith Scantlebury
Councillor Len Smith
Councillor Roger Spriddell
Councillor Allan Stewart
Councillor Grant Ward
Councillor Rebecca Wilczek

In attendance: Jenny Tindale – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Tina Heddon – Assistant Clerk
County Councillor Bedlington East Ward - Trevor Austin

		ACTION
CO92/25	**PUBLIC SESSION** There were no members of the public present.	
CO93/25	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** There were no apologies.	
CO94/25	**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** **RESOLVED:** **That;** **(i) The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20 January 2026 be signed as a true record.**	
CO95/25	**Clerk & Officers Update** The Clerk had submitted a written report prior to the meeting. She expanded on external meetings attended. Discussion took place around item 5 East Bedlington Community Centre and what the ongoing support funds set aside in the 2025/26 budget could be used for**.** Members agreed a fully justified application should be made to the Council to enable funds to be spent.	

	The Clerk also drew members' attention to the ongoing Library consultation and the impact that the loss of a Librarian service would have on the local community in East Bedlington. Members were passionate regarding retaining the existing provision and agreed a course of action to promote the consultation, the impacts of the loss of the service, including the existing demographics in terms of low literacy levels in the Parish. **RESOLVED:** **(i) The remaining balance in the East Bedlington Community Centre budget line of £16,850 be transferred into the Parish Council's Earmarked Reserves.** **(ii) A task group be set up to champion the Library provision and raise awareness of the consultation process and potential outcomes and impacts. The group to consist of Councillor Murphy, Councillor Wilczek and Councillor Spriddell** (iii) **That the report be noted**	**Clerk**
CO96/25	**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION** There were no new disclosures or requests.	
CO97/25	**POLICE REPORT** No report issued prior to the meeting	
CO98/25	**NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS** A written report from Councillor Austin had been circulated prior to the meeting. **RESOLVED:** **That;** **Thanks be noted to Councillors Austin for his comprehensive report and that the report be noted.**	
CO99/25	**CORRESPONDENCE** Members sought clarification on logs 351 – confirmation of revised cost. 403 – confirmation of drawings from Hugh Massey 404 - potential Youth project to be presented to Services WG **RESOLVED:** **(i) That the correspondence be noted.**	

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CO100/25	**PLANNING** **RESOLVED:** **That;** i) Planning determinations be noted. ii) That no objections be recorded in respect of applications 26/00152/VARYCO, 25/04601/VARYCO, 26/00384/FUL, 26/00163/FUL	
CO101/25	**FINANCE REPORT** The Responsible Financial Officer presented the suite of reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting. **RESOLVED** **That the,** **(i) Schedule of receipts and payments for the month ended 28 February 2026 be approved.** • **Current account cleared balances as at 28 February 2026 £16,786.56** • **Deposit account £00.12** • **CCLA Investment account £315,000 be noted.** **(ii) Budget report as at 28 February 2026 be noted.** **(iii) Detailed Income and expenditure for the month ended 28 February 2026 be noted** **(iv) Balance Sheet for the month ended 28 February be noted.**	
CO102/25	**WORKING GROUPS** Minutes of the working groups held since the last full council meeting were circulated prior to the meeting for information. Members were reminded that the Working Group minutes were presented to members for information only at the meeting and details from the draft minutes should be raised with the Clerk prior to the meeting or at the next working group. **RESOLVED:** **That;** **The minutes of** **(i) The Planning & Economic Regeneration Worling Group held on 27 January 2026 be noted.** **(ii) The Services Working Group held 17 February 2026 be noted.**	
CO103/25	**MATTERS FOR DECISION** **RESOLVED:** **That;** **(i) The Council resolve to sign up to the Civility & Respect Agenda.**	**Clerk**

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	(ii) Members approve the removal of damaged equipment and surface in Jennings Field in the current financial year; **(iii) That the amendments to the Allotment Rules & Responsibilities and the Allotment Policy be approved.**	**Clerk** **Clerk**
	Members were asked to consider under **Standing Order 3d**, that in view of the special and confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and asked to withdraw.	
CO104/25	**EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC** Members considered that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, permitted under Part I (2) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) due to the confidential nature of the business, **RESOLVED:** **That the Press & Public be excluded.**	
CO105/25	**BEDLINGTON STATION HERITAGE THEMED CAFÉ / BISTO PROJECT** The Chairman updated the meeting reiterating the details of correspondence between the Parish Council and the NCC Regeneration Team which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Members were allowed free discussion on the matter. The Chairman summarised the actions which could be taken by the Council. Councillor Stewart requested a named vote. Councillor Crosby proposed that a separate meeting be organised between NCC Regeneration and the Full Council with a Cabinet Member in attendance. This was seconded by Councillor Wilczek. Councillor Stewart proposed that the Council walk away from the project. There was no seconder for this proposal and the proposal fell. A vote was taken. **In favour** of a meeting with NCC Regeneration and Cabinet meeting. Councillor Dawn Crosby Councillor Keith Grimes (Chairman) Councillor Paul Hedley Councillor Mary Murphy Councillor Caroline Rogers Councillor Keith Scantlebury Councillor Len Smith Councillor Roger Spriddell Councillor Grant Ward Councillor Rebecca Wilczek	

	Against Councillor Allan Stewart **Motion carried 10 votes to 1** **RESOLVED:** **That a meeting be called between NCC Regeneration Team and the Full Council with a Cabinet Member in attendance.**	**Clerk**
CO106/25	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** **Thursday 30 April 2026 6pm – Annual Meeting of the Parish (Assembly)** **Tuesday 5 May 2026 6pm Annual Parish Meeting** **Tuesday 5 May 2026 6.30pm Full Council Meeting**	

Signed: …… Chairman Date: ……

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